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J. W. Henderson to Sarah A. M. Henderson (10 May 1863)

John Watson Henderson

Sarah Anne Means Henderson

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Camp Bragg near Louisville, Tenn.

Sunday, May 10th 1863, Dear St. Sallie, as our
Sabbath morning inspection is over, I will respond
to your very affectionate letter of the 21st ult. which
I recd. day before yesterday evening. Dear, you can scarcely
imagine how glad I am to receive a letter from her
who is ever dearest & nearest to me on earth. I would
gladly read one every day, it is almost the only pleasure
& thought I have just to think over past pleasures
& anticipate future ones. Oh! that ~~they~~^{it} may not
be far distant in the future, when I shall again re-
vive the sweet society of those I think of daily & then
of frequently. Dear, I have no good news to write this
time except the victory at Gettysburg Va. which you
have doubtless heard of ere this. We have recd. rather
bad news here for the last few days. Gen. Anderson is
reported killed. He was killed by a certain Dr.
Peterson or Petrus in the act of seducing his wife.
It is a considerable loss to the Confederacy, but I say
any man that would be guilty of such a thing, ought
to be killed. Col. Wheeler is reported captured by
the Federals but old Horst is still at his post doing
his duty - captured 1600 Yanks at Home Pa. the other day.

But worse news than all this is the report that
 The Yanks have taken possession of Jackson Miss
 & are marching on Vicksburg in force. If that
 be true, we are done hearing from dear ones at
 home. I do hope it is false. It is bad enough
 now when I can hear from you every week or two,
 but I think I shall be perfectly miserable if our
 communication is broken up & I can't get a letter
 occasionally from her whom I love above all others
 on earth. There is talk now in the papers, that we
 will soon have a fleet sent from France to raise
 the blockade. If this be so our cause may still prosper
 but if it be false & the Yanks get Vicksburg,
 they will have all Miss & will soon get Mobile &
 South Ala. I am fearful they will starve us out
 sure enough - but I will still hope for the best.
 Our prisoners just getting in from Yankeeedom
 bring favorable news to our side - They say the Yanks
 are constantly deserting & the copperheads up there
 are protecting them. One of our company came
 in last night & said the whole guard deserted.
 The train as he came on, he also said that

one of the guard was taken off the train &
hanged for shooting a citizen when he holla-
ed Hurra! for Jeff. Davis. The citizens are not
allowed to speak to the prisoners as they come out.
They say that the ladies will sometimes come with
baskets of provisions to the prisoners & the guard
will not let them near enough the cars to give it
to them. The last one of them ought to be killed.
I hope I may never have the misfortune to be a
prisoner, I would hate mightily to be compelled to
submit to their cruel treatment. Dear I am glad
to hear that they have at last got Herd & his clan.
I hope they will receive their deserts if it is to
look up a rope. I think the last one of them
ought to be hanged or shot as traitors to their
country. Dear you requested me to write a long &
interesting letter. but it is a difficult matter to
do so in camp. There is so much to occupy a
man here, some reading, some talking & laughing
some cooking some singing, some hallooing &
almost everything else you can imagine.
The soldiers seem to be in better health & better
spirits than I ever saw them since the war began.

I am very sorry I can't go along with you tonight - but have no choice. I will see if I can't find some one else to go with me. I shall try to make your & Alice's visit as comfortable as possible. If I had more money I could come out every day. Some ladies come into camp nearly every day. Some men's wives are here from home to see them. I often wish you were along. They speak of having grand dances in some of the regiments. The 30th is to have it tomorrow or next day. Dear, will you not attend? Tell all the young ladies that their company is respectfully solicited also the married ones who have husbands here. I am anxious to see it. I never have seen a grand dance. Dear, you wanted me to send you some stamps. I regret that I can't get them to send. I have money plenty to buy them but I can't find them to buy. I have over 100 dolls. would send you 100 if I had a chance. I drew some 63 dollars for my last ration ticket. I was gone home & I have sold my grants for 15. Dear, I did hate to part with them as you had spent so much labor on them with your own hands - but I was afraid I could not carry them till fall. You shall have the money whenever I meet with an opportunity to send it. I am making you a ring out of a missile shell to send too. I would like to have one apiece for sweet Lavinia & Alice but they are hard to make.